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1. The attached report contains advice rather than information, but is forwarded in the belief that it may be of interest. 25X1X [REDACTED] 25X1X [REDACTED]
2. It may be observed that other thoughtful Germans have expressed similar opinions regarding the prospective youth rally. 25X1A [REDACTED]
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REPORT NO:

25X1X

SUBJECT: Views [REDACTED] on FDJ Whitsuntide March

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25X1C INFO DATE: [REDACTED]

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1. [REDACTED] that no greater mistake could have been made by the western Allies and the Berlin west-sector Magistrat than to forbid an organized march into the western sectors by the participants in the Deutschland-treffen scheduled for Whitsuntide. A formal ban such as this will inevitably be taken as a sign of weakness on the part of the western powers and will serve to make them a laughing stock in the East. It would have been far wiser from the point of view of propaganda value to attempt to turn the strength of the opponent to our own advantage, like a skilled jujitsu fighter. This might be accomplished in several ways. All western Berlin is an enormous show-window displaying the material advantages of the West and the great improvements that have been made here in such a short time. This would not fail to impress the youth of the East, who will be naturally curious to see for themselves. The main thing is to make sure that they do see it all, and that they take home reports of their experiences. Therefore, let them march in, or ride in, or come any way they want. Talk of a possible putsch is irresponsible and exaggerated. Let them march in, if necessary only along prescribed routes, and hang over these streets at hundred-yard intervals great banners inscribed with mottoes and catch-phrases extolling the advantages enjoyed by people who live in a real democracy with real personal freedom. These boys are used to banners like these, and although they may laugh and jeer as they pass under them in west Berlin, there will be many among them who will do some real thinking about it later on. There might even be a sign reading "We have 300,000 unemployed in west Berlin -- it's the fault of the Russians!" The fact that we admit we have problems would make a great impression on boys who come from a land where everything is said to be almost perfect although it clearly is not. It would also be a fine idea to keep the movies open at all hours, and to arrange special low prices of admission for the marchers. In some of these three newsreels might be shown - a German, an American, and a Russian - and at the end a big question flashed on the screen: "Are you allowed to see three kinds of newsreels?"

2. There are many possibilities of putting new ideas into their heads, but it will be effective only if they come to western Berlin in great numbers, and the ban on marching in will have the opposite effect. Of course, some will come on their own, out of curiosity, but all the days will be carefully planned by the organizers in such a way that almost all waking hours will be taken up with parades in the east

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